

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COTONO 00799 230907Z

20

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 OMB-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

/131 W

----- 009529

R 221602Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6203

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0799

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TG, DM

SUBJECT: EYADEMA VISITS COTONOU

1. PRESIDENT GNASSINGBE EYADEMA PAID NINE-HOUR VISIT TO DAHOMEY MAY 21. ARRIVING BY HELICOPTER, "LE GUIDE SUPREME" WAS ACCORDED CORRECT BUT UNENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION AT AIRPORT. PRESIDENT KEREKOU -- WHO HAS BEEN ON LEAVE -- WAS THERE TO RECEIVE HIS NEIGHBOR. TWO PRESIDENTS DROVE TO PALACE IN OPEN CAR THROUGH THIN SCATTERING OF CURIOUS AND UNEMPLOYED.

2. JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT END OF VISIT WAS BRIEF AND CONTAINED NO SURPRISES. INTER ALIA, IT APPEALED TO PORTUGAL TO GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO AFRICAN DEPENDENCIES, CALLED FOR "NEW ECONOMIC DEAL" TO STOP DEGRADATION TERMS OF TRADE FOR LDC'S, AND REAFFIRMED "INALIENABLE RIGHT" OF STATES TO EXERCISE FULL SOVEREIGNTY OVER THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES. TWO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 COTONO 00799 230907Z

PARTIES RENEWED EXPRESSION THEIR DETERMINATION TO RAPIDLY

BRING ABOUT WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY COMPRISING ALL STATES OF REGION. ONLY SEMI-HARD ELEMENTS IN COMMUNIQUE WERE REACTIVATION OF TOGO-DAHOMAN COMMISSION CREATED ORIGINALLY IN 1965 TO HARMONIZE POLICIES OF TWO COUNTRIES, AND DECISION TO SUBMIT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES TO AD HOC COMMISSION OF INQUIRY WHICH WOULD MAKE REPORT TO HEADS OF STATE.

3. IN AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE, PRESIDENT EYADEMA SAID HE HAD RETURNED HIS "IMPORTED" FIRST NAME TO ITS OWNERS KEEPING ONLY HIS AUTHENTIC TOTOGESE FIRST NAME. IN INTERESTING CLARIFICATION, PRESIDENT EXPLAINED MEANING OF GNASSINGBE IN KABRE LANGUAGE AS "HE MUST COMMAND." HE SAID EYADEMA MEANS "THE PEOPLE ARE FINISHED."

4. ON NATIONALIZATION OF CTMB, EYADEMA REPORTED IN DAHOMEANS AS HAVING SAID: "WE DID NOT ORIGINALLY INTEND TO NATIONALIZE CTMB 100 PERCENT. IN JANUARY WE HAD DECIDED INCREASE GOT OWNERSHIP TO 51 PERCENT PLUS CONTROL OF SALES. IT WAS ONLY AFTER ACCIDENT OF SARA-KAWA THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO FINISH WITH IT BECAUSE IT HAD BECOME A JOKE (PLAISANTERIE). IT IS NECESSARY TO UNDERSTAND THAT SINCE 1975 THE IMPERIALISTS HAVE EXPLOITED OUR MINERAL RESOURCES, AND THE TOGOLESE STATE HAD ONLY 1 PERCENT OF THE OWNERSHIP (CAPITAL SOCIAL); BUT WHEN WE DECIDED TO AUGMENT THIS PARTICIPATION, THEY REACTED BY WANTING TO KILL ME."

5. NEITHER PRESIDENT WAS PRESENT AT THE OFFICIAL LUNCHEON GIVEN IN HONOR OF VISIT AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. SEVERAL DAHOMEANS AT LUNCHEON WHISPERED TO ME THAT EYADEMA, FEARING POISON, HAD BROUGHT HIS OWN PICNIC LUNCH WHICH HE ATE PRIVATELY WITH KEREKOU. THROUGHOUT PUBLIC PORTIONS OF VISIT, THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF WARMTH OR COMARADERIE USUALLY DISPLAYED WHEN AFRICAN FRIENDS MEET. FOR UNEXPLAINED REASON, EYADEMA LEFT HALF HOUR PRIOR TO SCHEDULED DEPARTURE FROM COTONOU.

6. COMMENT: WHAT, IF ANYTHING, CAME OUT OF THIS FIRST ATTEMPT REPAIR BADLY STRAINED TOGO-DAHO RELATIONS NOT KNOWN. SEVERAL WELL-PLACED DAHOMEANS HAVE SAID THEY UNDERSTAND THAT MOBUTU LAID GROUNDWORK ON RECENT VISIT TO BRING TWO NEIGHBORS TOGETHER. THERE ALSO WIDESPREAD SPECULATION THAT VISIT IS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 COTONO 00799 230907Z

DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT BY EYADEMA FOR FELLOW NORTHERNER, KEREKOU, IN LATTER'S INTERNAL STRUGGLES WITH PREDOMINANTLY SOUTHERN FACTION IN MRGD LED BY FON MINISTER INTERIOR AIKPE. MCNAMARA

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, COMMUNIQUEs, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974COTONO00799
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740128-1178
From: COTONOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740528/aaaaayfq.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EYADEMA VISITS COTONOU
TAGS: PFOR, TO, DM, (EYADEMA, GNASSINGBE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005